

Claims

1 A receiver for digital data which is broadcast from a remote location, said receiver including or connected to a storage means which allows the selective storage of received data therein and a control system for the control of the storage means and the storage of data therein and characterised in that the storage system includes a "first in first out" buffer (FIFO) which includes commands for the control system and the control of the storage of the data in the storage means.

2 A receiver according to claim 1 characterised in that the data which forms the data to be stored comprises instruction data and block data and the paths for said data are decoupled.

3 A receiver according to claim 2 characterised in that the data generated for the buffer is compatible with the commands that are used to automate the bulk transfer of the data to and from the storage means.

4 A receiver according to claim 1 characterised in that the analysis, storage and directing of the incoming data into the receiver is performed by a control processing unit (CPU) in the receiver.

5 A receiver according to claim 1 characterised in that the receiver controls which of the incoming data is to be stored and generates the signals for control of the buffer to allow the storage of the appropriate data.

6 A receiver according to claim 4 characterised in that the CPU loads the command signals data into the FIFO buffer which can include data which is in the same form as it is received by the

7 A receiver according to claim 6 characterised in that the CPU generates the command signals which instruct the transfer of data to and/or from the data storage means.

9 A receiver according to claim 1 characterised in that the provision of each instruction in the FIFO in a generic form allows any possible register read/write command to be sent from/to the attached storage means.

11 A receiver according to claim 10 characterised in that any additional information which is not used to provide the register read/write commands to the HDD is used to instigate the automated bulk transfer of the streamed data to the storage means.

12. A receiver according to claim 1 characterised in that the data which is stored is received from a remote location and broadcast via any of satellite, terrestrial or cable broadcast systems and represents a plurality of user selectable video/audio channels and for which the data is required to be combined and processed in accordance with the user selection made to generate the particular channel to be watched via the receiver and display screen connected therewith and

[illegible]